

STEP-BY-STEPPE



ADRA Mongolia: Creating Opportunity, Changing Lives

Health Education Against Tobacco project successfully implemented



Working Group

Health Education against Tobacco (HEAT) project successfully implemented from 1st of July, 2008 to 31st of June, 2011. The project was aimed to reduce the spread of non-communicable diseases through reducing the usage of tobacco in the population.

The project activities have been implemented in three different areas. In total 13,076 people have received the information on the negative effects of tobacco usage through 180 peer educators and adult trainers.

Another remarkable activity was very good collaboration with media organization to reach the larger population. There were 90 programs, 80 news and 7500 spots broadcasted to the public.

In order to establish firm foundation with local government and to improve the tobacco control system, special committee was formed.

Thank you so much to all project team members, donors and the capital city working group for making this project a success.

Green Activities

ADRA Mongolia's Food Security program is implementing three projects: Community Food System Project (CFS), Bio-Intensive Gardening, and the Sustainable Economy and Agricultural Learning Project (SEAL). These projects are being implemented in Zavkhan, Dornogobi and Bayan Ulgii provinces. CFS and Bio-intensive projects are working with farmer cooperatives, and SEAL project involves 600 gardener households from urban and rural areas.

ADRA Mongolia Food Security program uses permaculture as the foundation for its small scale agriculture activities. Permaculture is an approach to food production that involves establishing self-contained eco-systems as part of farming practice, so that soils remain fertile, water usage is conserved and vegetables are grown with organic practices.

ADRA Mongolia also actively promotes seed saving, and this year ADRA's farmer cooperatives from Zavkhan province provided over than 90 percent of required potatoes seeds from their own stock that had been saved from last year's harvest. Spring planting has now been completed. In total, 12 different types of potatoes and vegetables seeds were planted in their fertile soil. Early spring greens such as spinach, lettuce and radish have already been harvested from the passive solar greenhouses that ADRA has helped the cooperatives construct through protected cultivation activities. The Food Security team is looking forward to seeing an excellent harvest with all project beneficiaries in September this year.



Plantation of Seeds



Special Visit from ADRA Switzerland

It was my first trip to Mongolia and I was looking forward to visiting the country, especially since I knew the climate there is arid and I haven't visited such a place before.

After visiting beneficiaries of the projects ADRA Switzerland is supporting in Ulaan Baatar, we left the capital to visit the project sites in the province of Bayankhongor. The journey took us 12.5 hours, including a camel ride and a Mongolian lunch in a ger.

All the cooperative-members from the MED-project that we visited are very motivated to learn, and to establish or expand their business. The members of the cooperatives which I've visited, sew traditional deels or modern clothing, produce milk products, barley and bricks. Additionally, many of them have some land with vegetable or fruits.

Some of the former participants of the Youth Enterprise Project already have their own business.



Cooperative members

For example we visited a young man of 21 years, who finished the ADRA courses in 2009. He learned how to repair electrical appliances and now has his own business in a small cabin in Bayankhongor and is supporting his family with it.

From what I've seen, ADRA Mongolia is creating opportunities for many families and helping to change their lives for the better.

Rachel Kürsteiner, ADRA Switzerland

Education Committee Planning Workshop

A planning workshop was conducted among the Education Committee members undertaken last June 20-21, 2011 in Ulaistai soum, Zavkhan aimag under the Sustained Poverty Reduction through Agricultural Development (SPADE) project.

Through the workshop, cooperatives were able to formulate their respective capacity building plan with budget, identify training needs and clarify roles and responsibilities of trainers.



Planning Process



Participants of Workshop

During the workshop participants were given the opportunity to explore their own training style through the training demonstration session. Participants also learned fundamental theories and principles in adult learning as well as practical tips in conducting training from each other.

Formation of education committees paves the way for cooperatives to strengthen its ability to enhance competencies and skills of its members needed to perform the job and respond to future changes in the organization to meet its goals and objectives.



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Rural Economic Advancement Project is started

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Micro Economic Development (MED) Program is implementing the Rural Economic Advancement Project-New Zealand (REAP-NZ) project in Selenge & Zavkhan aimag starting April 2011.

The project aim is "To reduce poverty among rural populations through creating sustainable livelihoods opportunities in Zavkhan and Selenge Provinces of Mongolia".

The project key outcomes are: (1) To Support the cooperatives which functioned in agriculture area (2) To Empower local organizations who support cooperative (3) To Secure rural economic livelihood through value chain linkage in agribusiness

Within 1st output, project is organizing activities, such as choosing cooperatives and their trainings needs in Selenge & Zavkhan aimag.



In this project, not only the beneficiaries of "Self Help Group and Sustainability" project, which was implemented between 2006 to 2010 will participate but also those who, in order to expand their business, are interested in establishing cooperatives are involved in this program.

Financial Evaluation Conducted in ADRA Mongolia

In the last week of July to the 1st week of Aug, ADRA Mongolia had a financial evaluation conducted by Zenaida Cooper. ADRA Canada, ADRA UK, ADRA Germany and ADRA Mongolia partnered to realize this plan.

The main objective of the financial evaluation is to (1) review compliance to existing policies and procedures (2) assess if ADRA Mongolia's existing policy meet the requirements of various Donors including EC, CIDA, CFGB and BMZ and (3) recommend changes to further improve financial operation.

Mrs. Cooper also conducted a 1-day finance training covering the topics on (1) how to read financial statements, (2) budgeting, (3) internal controls. This training was attended by 25 staff members both from administration and projects.

It is a great learning experience for all of us especially the finance team.

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